

Holy Nativity Lutheran Church

3 Lenape Trail
Wenonah, NJ 08090

OUR MISSION

Graced by a loving God to be a caring community of faith the fellowship of Holy Nativity is called to support one another, warmly welcoming others into our community, sharing in the mission of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed, and reaching out in witness and service to the communities to which we belong as one in the Body of Christ.

Worship Service for Sunday, May 12, 2024

7th Sunday of Easter LBW Holy Communion Setting Two

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

In response to God's overwhelming love, we stand in awe of the wideness of God's mercy and by God's Spirit we welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. In faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, mindful of our Lutheran emphasis on grace, and rejoicing in the celebration of our shared baptismal journey, we welcome all as members of our church family including any who have ever felt excluded by the Church for any of the reasons that too often divide us.

We are so glad you have joined us today!

First-time guests: *Please fill out a Communion Card and place it in the offering plate.* Newcomer orientations are held on various days several times a year for those who are interested in learning more about HNLC.

Restrooms are located in the hallway between the lobby and our fellowship hall.

Today's Altar Flowers are given by Marianne Halterman in loving memory of Don Halterman.

The Sanctuary Candle is given to the Glory of God.

PRELUDE

How Firm a Foundation

arr. E. Broughton



Introduction to the day

The gospel for Easter's seventh Sunday is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in John's gospel on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus' desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. This oneness is not mere doctrinal agreement or institutional unity, but mutual abiding, interpenetrating life, mutual love, and joy. This oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come, Holy Spirit!

GATHERING The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (The congregation responds with text in bold print.)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *God Is Here!* (WOV 719 v. 1, 3)



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



B Wor-ty is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept before the prayer.* Gracious and glorious God, **you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

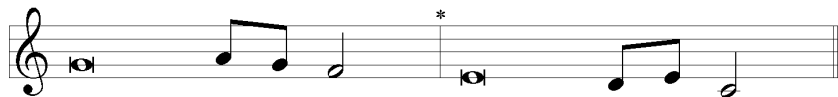
FIRST READING: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 A reading from Acts.

In the days between Jesus' ascension and Pentecost, Peter oversees the process whereby one of the members of the community of believers is chosen to be the twelfth apostle, in order to fill the vacancy created by Judas's treachery and death.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶“Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—¹⁷for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” ²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” ²³So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 1 (The Psalm is sung responsively by verse.)



Refrain: The LORD | knows the way * of | the righteous. (*Ps. 1:6*)

Refrain: The LORD | knows the way * of | the righteous.

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked, * nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law | of the LORD, * and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night.**

Refrain: The LORD | knows the way * of | the righteous.

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that | do not wither; * everything they | do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so | with the wicked; * they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes, * nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

⁶**For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous, * but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed.**

Refrain: The LORD | knows the way * of | the righteous.

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:9-13 A reading from 1 John.

God has borne witness to the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. Whoever believes in the Son of God believes in the witness of God and has the promise of eternal life.

⁹If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. ¹⁰Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

WE RISE TO GREET THE GOSPEL

Alleluia. I will not leave you orphaned, | says the Lord.* I am com- | ing to you. Alleluia. (John 14:18)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 17:6-19 The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In this reading the church hears Jesus' words on the night before his death—his prayer for his disciples and for all who would believe in him through their words.

[Jesus prayed:] ⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON *Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

HYMN OF THE DAY *Son of God, Eternal Savior* (LBW 364 v. 1-2)



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Matthias, Apostle Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Matthias was the apostle added to the Twelve after Jesus' resurrection, as a replacement for the dead Judas Iscariot. He had traveled among the followers of Jesus throughout the Lord's ministry. Formerly commemorated on February 24, Matthias's celebration is moved to May 14 in agreement with most Western calendars.

Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160 Saturday, May 18, 2024

Erik is considered the patron saint of Sweden. As king of that nation, he tried to bring peace in the region, and to spread Christianity in Scandinavia. He was also known for his attempts to make fair laws and to protect those who were poor or sick.

PRAYER LIST

John Austino, The family of Bill Bartleson as they mourn his death, Nicholas Baud, John Brecht, The family of 3 year-old Cameron Bruder as they mourn his death, Max Belko, The family of Kaz Bielecki's son-in-law as they mourn his death, Cathy Buccarelli, Caryl Carthew, Sal Castelli, Sherwood Cotton, Rocco Cristinzio, The friends and family of Gladys Crooker as they mourn her death, Milton Cuevas, Jr., The family of Lorraine Donnelly as they mourn her passing, Pastor Bruce Ewen, Barbara Facchine, The family of Anne Fatum as they mourn her death, Scott Fey, Francis, John Forsman, Bobby G., Alma Garcia, Tony Garr, Gavin Gigliotti, The family of Michael Gilletti as they mourn his death, Mark Gismondi, Terry Gismondi, Wilma Gismondi, the family of Doris Gordon as they mourn her death, Randi Gordon, The family of Don Halterman as they mourn his death, The family and friends of Lynette Huntsinger as they mourn her death, Marilyn Kaiser, The family of Robert Keen as they mourn his passing, The family of Joseph Kelleher as they mourn his passing, Grace Laphan, The family of George Lofmark as they mourn his death, Joseph Lonia, Jessie MacGregor, Joseph Mansfield, The McCall family in their time of grief and loss, The family of Michael McKee as they mourn his passing, George Muth, Carol Nardi, The family of Robert O'Connor, The O'Donald family as they mourn the passing of their young adult female family member, Lazslo Orosze, Janet Ostrowski, The family of Joseph Ostrowski as they mourn his death, Otis, Danielle Peters, The family of Harry Rees as they mourn his death, Carole Rund and family on the death of her sister Joan, Billy Shea, Ken Silver, Brian Solt, Joy Stagliano, Samantha Sumner, Richard Sylvester, Eileen Simpson, Dot Stagg, Julia Stanz, Nathan Storhoff, Corey Temean, Sue Willard, The family of Madeline Williams as they mourn her death, Jerry, Pat, who are battling cancer, and Jerry, Pat and Kelly who are battling cancer.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. *A brief silence.*

You sanctify us in your truth; your word is truth. Send your church out into the world to spread your love and joy. Embolden all bishops, pastors, and deacons (*especially*) to be faithful ministers of your word and sacraments. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation groans under the strain of pollution. Preserve melting glaciers and dwindling forests. Bolster those who work for climate justice and help us all to be good and faithful stewards of your creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your people seek wisdom, understanding, and peace. Guide all those who govern and inspire them to work on behalf of the most vulnerable in our midst. Keep safe first responders, those serving in the military, and those whose duty it is to protect others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your children need your loving care. Protect them from all harm. Comfort those in any affliction (*especially*). Support those who grieve and bring solace to those near death. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your Spirit lives within us here. Inspire the work of this congregation and unite us as one. Bless all the mothers in our midst, console those for whom this day is difficult, and gather us all under the care of your loving wings. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your saints dwell with you in light. Keep us ever thankful for those who have gone before us in faith (*especially*). Inspire us by their witness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY *The New 23rd (Solo by Laurie Brown) R. Carmichael*

OFFERTORY CANTICLE



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER FOR EASTER

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE, PREFACE AND SANCTUS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

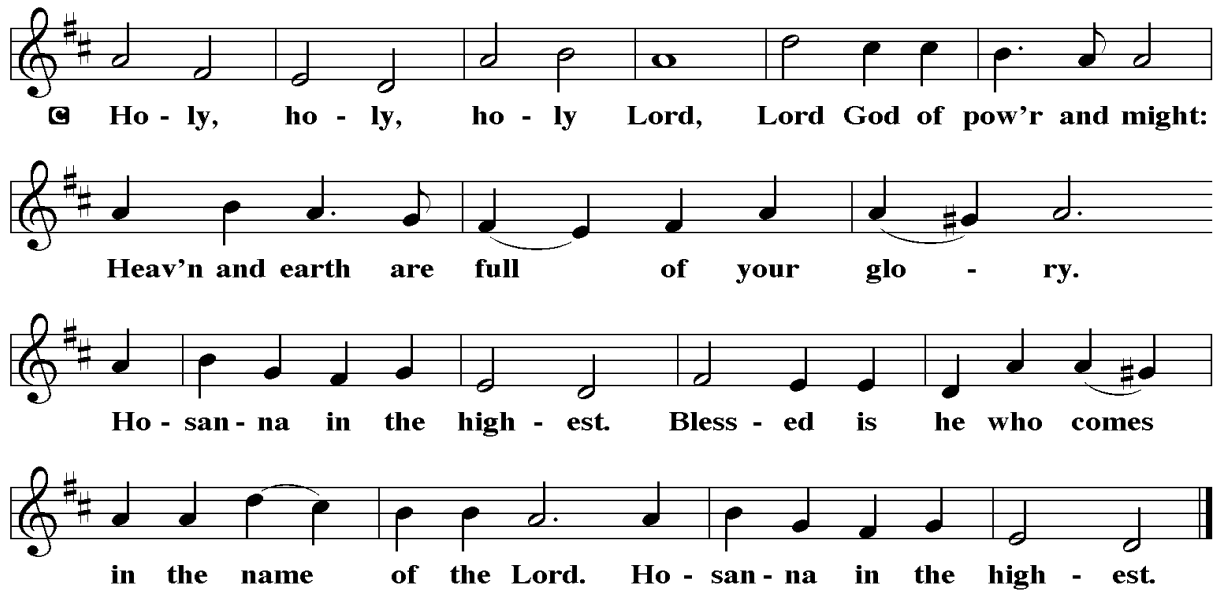
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal

life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE LITANY

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

EASTER INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.** The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

BLESSING OF COMMUNION

May the body and blood of our risen savior Jesus Christ (+) strengthen you and keep you now and forever in God's Grace. **Amen**

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

Thank-ful hearts and voices raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let

ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and bear the name of Christ.

Send us with your prom-ises and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks - giving. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

EASTER PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

SENDING God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING FOR EASTER

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ? bless you now and always. Amen.

SENDING SONG *Crown Him with Many Crowns* (LBW 170 v. 1, 3, 5)



1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
whose arm those crim - son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;
rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.
but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

5 Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose pow'r a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end,
and round his pierced feet
fair flow'rs of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.

6 Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Offering received May 4 and 5 -- \$3422.00. Weekly amount needed to meet the spending plan-- \$2725.00. Total received year-to-date--\$46642.45. Amount needed to meet the spending plan-- \$49050.00.
- Don't forget that we have ACME and ShopRite cards for sale after the church service.
- Our Narcan class will be held on 5/22/24 at 6:30 pm at the church.
- Community Wide VBS Planning meeting—May 14 7:30-8:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall at Memorial Presbyterian Church. VBS dates—July 29-August 2 (6:30 pm to 8:30 pm) at Memorial Presbyterian.
- If you are interested in receiving a daily bible reading by email, visit the following website and click the subscribe button: [Daily Bible Reading - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America \(elca.org\)](https://www.elca.org).
- St. Peter's Community Pantry is one of our ministry partners in the Gloucester County Faith in Prevention initiative. They are here to help serve those facing food insecurity in Gloucester County. If you (or someone you know) are having a difficult time buying food for yourself, or your family, please let St. Peter's try to make a small difference for you. The Pantry is located behind St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 304 Kings Highway in Clarksboro. They are open every 4th Saturday of the Month from 9 AM to 1 PM. The next distribution date is May 25.
- Coffee hour between services is scheduled for the first Sunday of each month, hosted by the 8:30 service. Come and join us for the next coffee and fellowship on Sunday, June 2.
- Save the following dates:
 - * Saturday, May 11—8 am to noon Wenonah Clean Community Day of Service
 - * Saturday, May 18--Wenonah Porchfest—2:00-10:30 pm
 - * Tuesday July 30—5:30-7:00 pm Church Picnic; Burgers, hot dogs, sides, etc.
 - * Sunday, September 8—God's Work, Our Hands Sunday—Fall clean-up at church
- One of our long-time members, Doris Manogue, will turn 100 years young on June 13th. As she approaches her 100th birthday her daughter thought it would be a great keepsake to compile a scrapbook for her of this milestone with birthday wishes, notes, memories from friends and family. If you are able to send a birthday greeting, note, or text that her daughter can print and include in the scrapbook, they would be ever so grateful! Her family is sure she will enjoy looking through the scrapbook and remember all of you fondly! Thanks so much from Kim Theriault and family. (Doris Manogue, 256 S. Warren Ave., West Deptford, NJ 08086. For texts—Kim's cell # (609) 420-8453).
- GROWING IN FAITH: THE DIAKONIA PROGRAM Growing in Faith is a ministry within the ELCA committed to fostering learning environments for followers of Jesus to grow in faith. Lay members of congregations are integral to healthy discipleship in the church and community. If you would be interested in this program, check out the website www.njdiakonia.com for more information.
- The church now has two Planet Aid clothing bins in the parking lot. The following clean items may be placed in the yellow bins: clothing, shoes, bedding, towels, curtains, sleeping bags, socks, underwear, bras. They cannot accept items that are tattered beyond repair, dirty, wet or moldy. They do not accept yarn, thread-bare items, spools of thread or similar cast-offs. They also do not accept toys, stuffed animals, furniture or electronics.
- If you have someone that you would like on the prayer list, please fill out a form in the narthex and place it in the offering plate or contact the church office email: hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com.
- Choir rehearses on Sunday mornings @ 9:40. Anyone is welcome to join us. We sing at the 10:30 service on a regular basis (usually monthly).
- Sunday School meets every Sunday during the school year in person at 9:30 am and is simulcast via Facebook LIVE. Church school resources are available on our website.
- At this time, the food pantry needs boxed cereal, pancake mix, syrup, grape jelly, loaves of bread and toilet paper. Other needed items include canned goods, non-perishable items, toiletries, laundry soap, etc.

SENDING FOR EASTER

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Melodia da Chiesa

arr. L. Smith

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GOSPEL MESSAGE (United in Christ)

The concept of the Trinity, one God, three in one, one in three, can be a little hard, sometimes, to get ahold of. But perhaps what scripture's witness to the Trinity boils down to is this: Jesus is in constant communication, continual, active relationship with the Father. The Father is in constant communication, continual, active relationship with the Son. And the Spirit is in and with and between both, always its own presence, but always, nonetheless, one in active relationship, one in ceaseless communication, with both the Father and the Son. Jesus prays that we may be "one" in the same fashion.

Conflict happens in the body of Christ all the time. Sometimes it is over matters of great significance: how we read scripture, how we are to conduct our lives, how the church is to think and act as it comes head-to-head with the constant pull and tug of the culture within and around it. Sometimes the conflict is personal. We resist the neighbor, and worse, out of hurt, anger, and anxiety. Sometimes the conflict can seem to be over a matter of pure nonsense: which way pickles should be sliced, and why they should be sliced that way.

Where and how, then, is our hope of being "one," as our Lord has so prayed?

It is in this: whatever our conflict, we belong to one another. Whatever our conflict, we are called to work at staying in active relationship, honest communication. We are not one, finally, when the issues between us wane, or cease. We are one because the Lord of life holds us together in the promise of his love even when powerful forces, at one and the same time, pull us apart. We are one because the body and blood of Christ have been given to each of us, and all of us.

HOLY NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 Lenape Trail

Wenonah, NJ 08090

856-468-5760

hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com

Pastor: Andy Gordon Music Director: Chris Robinson

5:00—Harriet Vico; 8:30—Lori Kershaw; 10:30—Colin Crawford

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

April Montana—Council Person/President/Christian Education

Joyce Bradbury—Council Person/Secretary

Caryl Carthew—Council Person/Worship and Music/Financial Secretary

Donna DeFrank—Council Person

Sandy Lonia—Council Person

Stephen Genovese—Council Person/Co-Treasurer

Karen Cusack—Council Person/Co-Treasurer

Brett Montana—Youth Representative